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tents, summaries, and indices,—should be of great importance as illustrative material for theoretical economics in general, and for transportation, corporation finance, and statistics in particular.

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*The Labor History of the Cripple Creek District.* A Study in Industrial Evolution. By BENJAMIN MCKIE RASTALL, Economic Expert, New York State Department of Labor. Bulletin of the University of Wisconsin, No. 198. (Madison, Wis., 1908. Pp. 166. 50c.)

This is an accurate, scholarly account of the two spectacular conflicts between capital and labor that have occurred in an extremely rich mining district located in the heart of the Rocky Mountains, nine thousand or more feet above sea level. The monograph divides itself into two parts. The first, comprising four chapters, deals with the strike of 1893; the second, covering six chapters, describes the important struggle of 1903–1904.

The first three chapters consider the causes of and events leading up to the strike of 1893, and clearly indicate that the key to the situation was to be found in the character of the men themselves. Any one who has visited this mountainous region knows that the men of the Cripple Creek district were not of the ordinary population whom we usually associate with the coal fields—foreign born, illiterate and tractable—but were bold, intelligent frontiersmen who had come to the mountains as fortune seekers. The mine owners, moreover, were not of the typical capitalistic class, for the majority of them were pioneers themselves who had gained their wealth by successful prospecting. Obviously a position once taken by either side in any controversy with the other would be steadfastly maintained regardless of consequences.

Chapter iv presents the various questions at issue—the claims of the miners for better working conditions, the arguments of the mine owners in answer thereto, and the attitude of the state authorities throughout the conflict. In a concluding paragraph the author calls attention to the political intrigue which played so important a part and seriously delayed a satisfactory settlement

of the difficulty. In fact the general opinion in the district has always been that the striking miners of 1893 could not have won their fight without the sympathetic use of the state authority.

Over two-thirds of the work is very properly devoted to the strike of 1903-1904, in which the miners were led by radical officials of the Western Federation of Miners. This industrial union, differing in structure from the typical trade union, and numbering about 200 unions in 1903, practically controlled many mining camps in the Rocky Mountains and far western states.

The author gives a vivid picture of the troubles that came thick and fast as soon as the strike had once been declared, and succeeds in presenting both sides of the question with commendable fairness. The calling out of the Cripple Creek miners who had no personal grievance to aid a few men in the employ of the Colorado Reduction and Refining Company at Colorado City, the formation of the Citizens' Alliance for the direct purpose of restraining members of labor unions from unlawful conduct during strikes, the extensive service rendered by the Colorado National Guard, are leading events that receive adequate treatment in the latter part of the monograph.

After a brief summary the writer justly places responsibility and blame for the opening of the Cripple Creek strike upon the Western Federation of Miners, for whatever may have been the reasonable complaint with regard to the failure of the Colorado legislature to pass the eight-hour bill, or to the right to form unions and make trade agreements at Colorado City where the trouble started, these questions had no direct connection with the Cripple Creek district. In the light of past experiences in other sections of the country, the result of this sympathetic strike was simply what might have been expected. "The unions sowed class consciousness, and it sprang up and destroyed them. Control passed from one class to another, and in the Cripple Creek district class rule is supreme."

The strike of 1893 was entirely natural in its origin, the result of business depression and an over-supply of labor, and well illustrates the labor movement in newly-settled regions. The second strike, according to the author, was as artificial in its origin as the first was natural, "the result of a forced labor movement and of the manipulation of labor leaders." The first strike brought about

a settled industrial condition, the second entirely eliminated the power of one organized factor.

The frequent use of state authority in these two strikes suggests an instructive comparison. Conditions in the first strike generally favored the mine owners and apparently made it almost impossible for the miners to win. But when the state interfered in their behalf, the tide turned and they won. In the second strike conditions were decidedly in favor of the miners, for they were strongly organized, with a large treasury to draw upon. In this case the power of the state was exercised in the interest of the mine owners who were then able to drive the union from the district.

As a careful narrative of an industrial war, stubbornly and bitterly fought on both sides, and as a stirring chapter in the history of the American labor movement, this monograph will be of interest to all students of industrial conditions.

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*The Currency Problem and the Present Financial Situation.* (New York: Columbia University Press, Longmans, Green and Company, Agents, 1908. Pp. 170.)

This is a collection of addresses delivered at Columbia University by a group of well-known bankers and others, including Mr. A. B. Hepburn, Mr. J. G. Cannon and Mr. George W. Perkins. In an introduction, entitled *The Crisis of 1907 in the Light of History*, Prof. Edwin R. A. Seligman explains that the origin of the addresses was a desire to contribute to the understanding of the crisis of 1907, and to lay down some principles which might be of service in the reconstruction of our currency system. He then goes on, in an interesting discussion of his own, to inquire into the question whether the crisis of 1907 was primarily financial or industrial, and passes from that to a review of the general causes responsible for the disturbance of last autumn.

The subjects of the different addresses vary considerably, including such widely distinct topics as *Government Currency versus Bank Currency* by Mr. Hepburn, and *The Modern Corporation* by Mr. Perkins. While all present facts closely related to currency and business questions, it is not always true that they have any special